



THE KYEM PROTECTOR

"News and Views of Emergency Management"

Inaugural Edition - September, 2008

THE INAUGURAL EDITION

The word went out, the vote is in - the people have spoken! Welcome to the inaugural edition of *The KyEM Protector*, your newsletter for news and views that impact all Kentuckians.

It is our goal to bring you a quality newsletter that keeps you informed of events from within and outside KyEM.

The KyEM Protector is brought to you by the KYEM Marketing/Awareness Team. We are: Buddy Rogers - team leader; Monica French - lead editor/layout; Melanie Hilliard - graphic design; Nancy Price - social and legislative contributor; Danny O'Bryan - profile writer; Ryan Fischer - branch contributor; Jessica Jones-Mitchell - proof editor; Jimmy Richerson - administrative contributor; and John Heltzel - operations contributor and senior advisor.

Perhaps the most important member of this team is you! We will be looking to you for suggestions and



contributions to make our newsletter the best in emergency management. Keep in mind our newsletter is an evolving document until we get it right. We encourage you to give us feedback; to let us know what you like or dislike; submit photos and announcements to help promote emergency management throughout the Commonwealth.

This inaugural edition has been delayed and downsized due to emergency operations caused by hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Look for a bigger, better newsletter soon. Thanks and I hope you enjoy *your* newsletter!

Buddy Rogers

KYEM WELCOMES NEW LEADERSHIP



Brigadier General John W. Heltzel was named Director of Kentucky's Division of Emergency Management by Governor Steven L. Beshear in July 2008.

The appointment returns BG Heltzel to a longstanding role in public service. He was selected to serve as the Deputy Commander of Kentucky's Joint Force Headquarters in 2007 where he was responsible for training of the Kentucky National Guard (KYNG). BG Heltzel accepted a full time position with KYNG in 1984 as lead officer for automation, communications, visual information and records management.

While in the Kentucky National Guard, BG Heltzel served as Battery, Battalion and Regiment Commander. In 2006, BG Heltzel left full time duty

to accept a KYNG General officer position. He was selected by the Army and National Guard Bureau in 2001 as one of two Officers to attend Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

BG Heltzel served as one of the original duty officers for the state Emergency Operation Center and was instrumental in the establishment of the Disaster and Emergency Services Operation Response Procedures Guide.

BG Heltzel received his Military Commission in the Kentucky National Guard from Eastern Kentucky University in 1979 with a Bachelor's Degree in Broadcast Communications. He received his Master's from Kentucky State University in Public Affairs with an emphasis on Management Information Systems in 1988.

To view BG John W. Heltzel's full biography, please visit www.kyem.ky.gov.

KYEM APPOINTS NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



James D. Richerson was appointed Assistant Director for Kentucky's Division of Emergency Management on August 1, 2008.

Mr. Richerson, who retired from the Kentucky State Police (KSP), was born in Marion County and raised in Taylor County. He also lived in Jefferson County while working for the Jefferson County Police Emergency Medical Services and in Marion and Franklin counties while working for KSP.

Richerson is a graduate of Campbellsville High School (1972), holds a BS Degree in Mathematics and Chemistry from Campbellsville College (1975) and an MA in Education and Counseling from Kentucky State University (1983).

Richerson and his wife Mary Therese have three children and three grandchildren. His personal goal is "to be productive and serve others while modeling appropriate behavior and to excel in everything attempted and to learn and grow while trying."

RECENT EVENTS

► KyEM Retirement Barbecue Cook-Off



Former KyEM Deputy Director Charlie Winter (left) won first place in the retirement cook off! John Bastin (right) came in second by a pig's tail!



As you can see, there were more than just awards being served up!

► KyEM said good bye to several long-time employees.

We wish all our friends the very best!



Front Row (left to right): Lisa Gash, Pam Hardesty, Diane Jones and Melody Rutherford. Back Row: (left to right): Rick Cox, Carolyn Padgett, Charlie Winter and Omar Marshall. Not pictured: Marcia Salyor and Gene Logue.



Bill Hilling, CSEPP Supervisor, was presented numerous awards from FEMA and Madison County officials.

SEPTEMBER IS PREPAREDNESS MONTH

September has been designated as National Preparedness Month. So, if the lights go out, are you prepared?

Something as simple as having a flashlight and extra batteries available in the event of a power outage can make you and your family more comfortable during these times.

Kentuckians face many challenges throughout the year, from tornadoes, flooding and winter storms to man-made hazards. Every household should be prepared to face these challenges at any given time.

Although state and local government is expected to assist the public during these times, preparedness starts at home. In the event of a large scale disaster, the government may be unable to respond immediately. Be prepared! You should have a three day supply of non-perishable foods and water for each member of your family, along with essentials such as: medicines, flash lights, radio, extra batteries, matches, candles, first aid supplies, etc.

Along with an emergency kit you should have an emergency plan.

PLANNING FOR A DISASTER

Be Aware:

- ◆ Know your weather forecasts in advance.
- ◆ Stay tuned to your local broadcasting stations.
- ◆ Discuss conditions with family members and know their location during times of known potentially threatening conditions.

Be Prepared:

- ◆ Discuss your plan with family members and neighbors.
- ◆ Review your plan periodically for necessary updates.
- ◆ Refresh your emergency kit(s).
- ◆ Drill: practice your plan with household members.

Have a Plan:

- ◆ Utilities: Written instructions for how to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so. (Remember, you'll need a professional to turn them back on.)
- ◆ Shelter: Identify safe locations within your residence.

- ◆ Contacts: Written contact information should include relatives, neighbors, utility companies, employers (employees) and local emergency contact telephone numbers.
- ◆ Evacuate: Predetermine evacuation routes. Identify where you could go if told to evacuate. Choose several places - a friend or relative's home in another town, a motel or shelter.
- ◆ Children: Make back up plans for children in case you (or they) can't get home in an emergency.
- ◆ Vehicles: Maintain a half tank of fuel in vehicles. Move vehicles from under trees during possible wind events. Keep an "Emergency Go Kit" in the vehicle.
- ◆ Medications: Prepare a list of all prescription drugs.

Make a Kit:

- ◆ First aid kit and essential medications.
- ◆ Non-perishable or canned food and can opener.
- ◆ At least three gallons of water per person.
- ◆ Protective clothing, rainwear and bedding or sleeping bags.
- ◆ Battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- ◆ Waterproof matches, candles.
- ◆ Local phone book.
- ◆ Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.
- ◆ Extra set of car keys.



Website links with additional valuable information:

www.kyem.ky.gov
www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov/community
www.floodsafety.noaa.gov/index.shtml
www.ready.gov
www.redcross.org/services
www.fema.gov/plan/index.shtm

FROM THE DIRECTOR...

I am very excited to address each of you through our inaugural issue of the *KYEM Protector*, your newsletter for emergency management.

It has been a busy period since being named director of KyEM on July 16th. It is an honor to serve the Governor and citizens of Kentucky. I have spent the first month getting to know the people and programs across the state. We are blessed with some of the best individuals in the world working in emergency management and emergency services at the local and state level.

I fully realize there are many areas of concern we need to address. Some are programmatic, some personnel, many are budget related and some are just different philosophies and opinions. However, I have found the positives far outweigh any negatives. There are no problems we cannot solve working together. Our strongest resource is our people! We are a great group of dedicated individuals who care about what we do and the role emergency management plays in our society.

I believe in team work, building relationships and creating new teams. You will hear me repeat my statement of building a team of teams for one purpose: **One Team – One Mission – Protect Our**

Commonwealth. This will be done through what I call the three Cs of emergency management: **coordination, communication and collaboration.**

It is our goal to make the Kentucky Emergency Management Team, from local to state, the best emergency management team in the nation. Through teamwork, we can achieve our goals and serve the Commonwealth from a position of strength.

You may or may not have heard me say this, but let me stress - if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, let me know. I have an open door policy. Give me a call or drop me an e-mail and we will find the time to discuss any issues you have.

I look forward to meeting all the members of our EM team. Let's get started!



John W. Heltzel



KYEM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 17 Woodford County Storm Ready Inspection
- 18 CSEPP CAIRA Exercise
- 23 KyEM Protected Day
- 25 Earthquake Technical Work group
 - Frankfort - 1:00 pm, DOT Building

OCTOBER

- 1 KY Weather Preparedness Committee (KWPC)
 - Shelbyville - 1:00 pm, Shelbyville EM Office
- 3 Storm Ready Presentation
 - Versailles - Time TBA, Woodford Co. EOC
- 7 - 8 Pandemic Influenza Workshop
 - Frankfort - 9:00 am, DOT Building
- 15 KCCRB Quarterly Meeting
 - Frankfort - 1:00 pm, State EOC

UPCOMING ISSUES

- ◆ Emergency Communications
- ◆ KCCRB
- ◆ People Protecting People
- ◆ CSEPP Annual Exercise
- ◆ Awards and Recognitions
- ◆ Golden Alert
- ◆ KES Conference Overview
- ◆ Hurricane Update
- ◆ WEB EOC

